

PERTH CENTRAL ECCLESIAL BIBLE CLASS

LIFE OF DAVID STUDY

1996-1997

From 1 SAMUEL 16 to 1 SAMUEL 31

STUDY LEADER: BRO JOHN ULLMAN

Notes compiled by Bro Graham Hill

LIFE OF DAVID STUDY

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STUDY NO 1 - THE INSTITUTION OF THE MONARCHY IN ISRAEL

GENERAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRST BOOK OF SAMUEL

Chaps 1-7 The birth and growth of Samuel as the foundation for the development of the prophets.

Chaps 8-31 The transition of Israel into a Monarchy, with Saul as the first king, and ending with his death.

1 SAMUEL 8

V1 WHEN SAMUEL WAS OLD

He lived for many years after this. Age or physical infirmity in itself is no basis for retiring people from service to God. It is a Biblical principle to use the wisdom of older brethren for the benefit of the ecclesia.

V2 VERSE 2

In naming his sons, Samuel shows his trust and faith in his God. Joel means Yahweh El. Abiah means Yah is my father.

BEERSHEBA

It lay in the southern extremity of Israel, by the border of the Philistines.

V3 HIS SONS WALKED NOT IN HIS WAYS

Samuel was an outstanding example to his sons. But the flesh is perverse. Righteousness is not hereditary. These sons contributed to the revolution recorded in this chapter. The word "ways" is in the singular in the hebrew. Samuel was not a man of many "ways". He was a man of ONE way - the way of Yahweh. The history of Israel illustrates the truth of Psalm 12:8 "The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men (such as Samuel's sons) are exalted."

TURNED ASIDE AFTER LUCRE

They were carried away by materialism.

V4 VERSE 4

Note the way verses 4 and 5 are recorded. The elders of Israel held discussions among themselves BEFORE they consulted with Samuel.

V5 VERSE 5

This pre-arranged speech seems to be based on a misunderstanding of Deut 17:14. Deut 17:14 is a prophecy of what the people of Israel WOULD do. It is NOT a statement of what Yahweh wanted. That this is the correct understanding of Deut 17:14 is confirmed by Deut 28:36. This is further confirmed by Gen 49:10. Yahweh's concept of the monarchy was based on the tribe of Judah and the Lord Jesus Christ, but Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin 1 Sam 9:1-2.

LIKE ALL THE NATIONS

They wanted to bring the world into the ecclesia. The reasons advanced for this request were Samuel's advancing age and his son's infidelity. But these elders show lack of faith. There is not the slightest evidence of faith in anything they say. Their minds are on things beneath rather than on things above.

1 SAMUEL 8 (continued)

V6 BUT THE THING DISPLEASED SAMUEL

It displeased him for 2 reasons. Firstly it was wrong and secondly it went against his intense loyalty to Yahweh. Notice too that Samuel does not defend his family. He cares for nothing except what Yahweh wanted done.

V6 SAMUEL PRAYED

But obviously the elders had not. They were motivated by political expediency. Samuel was motivated by loyalty to his God. Samuel was an example of the meek ones who pray to Yahweh and who Yahweh answers. See Psa 25:9. Instead of "meek" (2 occurrences) in Psa 25:9 Rotherham has "patient wronged-ones" and "oppressed ones".

V7 VERSE 7

This is the key verse in this chapter. The people were dissatisfied with having Yahweh as their king. They had de-throned him in their hearts. It is an illustration of the meaning of Judges 21:25 "In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes." But what of us? Do we reject Yahweh as king in our lives? Our way of life must demonstrate that Yahweh reigns and that we are happy to have Him reign over us.

V10 VERSE 10

Contrast Samuel's actions with Aaron's in the making of the golden calf. Aaron did what the people wanted. But here Samuel in faith and courage firmly resisted this wrong request for a king.

V15 HE WILL TAKE THE TENTH OF YOUR SEED

But in addition Samuel said a human king would take a tenth of their sheep (V17). Thus their request for a king would result in taxation at the rate of 20%.

V16 YOUR GOODLIEST YOUNG MEN

The LXX has "and your good herds" instead of "your goodliest young men". This requires only the alteration of one letter in the hebrew and the LXX is possibly right here.

V18 YAHWEH WILL NOT HEAR YOU IN THAT DAY

We must seek Yahweh while he can be found. The time to cry unto Him was when He would hear. The day would come when He would not hear.

V20 NAY; BUT WE WILL HAVE A KING OVER US

Yahweh's purpose with his people was that they should be holy or separate from the Gentiles (Lev 20:24). But they were determined to be like the Gentiles and adopt their ways. See 1 Sam 8:5. This led Israel into disaster after disaster.

AND FIGHT OUR BATTLES

The Divine formulae for success in battle is set out in Deut 20:1-4. But they reject this formulae. They think they can do better under human guidance and in human strength.

1 SAMUEL 9

V1 KISH.....A MIGHTY MAN OF POWER

"Power" - the margin has "substance". The hebrew word means "wealth". So Saul came from a background of affluence. This is often not conducive to learning to know and love the Truth.

1 SAMUEL 9 (continued)

V2 SAUL

His name means "asked for". But it does not appear that his father Kish was a particularly spiritual man. The Truth did not come first in his life. He appears not to have brought Saul up to know and love the Truth. See notes on 1 Sam 9:18 and 1 Samuel 10:11. And so we might question in what way Saul was really "asked for".

V2 CHOICE YOUNG MAN

The Jerusalem Bible translates it as "a handsome man in the prime of life".

V3 GO SEEK THE ASSES

This trifling event was to lead to the whole course of the nation being altered.

V18 THEN SAUL DREW NEAR TO SAMUEL AND SAID, WHERE IS THE SEER'S HOUSE

Samuel was the most prominent expositor - the most prominent spiritual leader - the most prominent speaker in the Land. But Saul didn't know him! How many meetings had Saul been to in his youth or as he was growing up as a teenager?

1 SAMUEL 10

V11 IS SAUL ALSO AMONG THE PROPHETS?

The people who knew Saul were astounded that Saul should be among the prophets because he was not known as a spiritually minded man - far from it!

V26 VERSE 26

This is a beautiful verse. Despite the fact that Saul was the people's choice, and despite his lack of spiritual virtues, Yahweh shows His love for His people and for Saul by providing him with a band of men whose heart Yahweh had touched. One of those men was Saul's own son Jonathan. Although there were a couple of commendable things that Saul did in his life, by and large it is all downhill until finally we come to the summary of his life given in 1 Chron 10:13-14

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against Yahweh, even against the word of Yahweh, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; And inquired not of Yahweh: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

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LIFE OF DAVID STUDY

STUDY NO 2 - SAMUEL GOES TO THE HOUSE OF JESSE

1 SAMUEL 13

V7 AND SOME OF THE HEBREWS WENT OVER JORDAN

In the face of an impending battle with the Philistines the people had no confidence in Saul. They hid themselves in out of the way places (V6) and some fled over Jordan to get even further out of the way.

V8 AND HE TARRIED SEVEN DAYS

Saul had been commanded to tarry seven days "till I (Samuel) come to thee and shew thee what thou shalt do" (1 Sam 10:8). This was a test for Saul. He waited for 7 days but NOT for seven FULL days. Instead of exercising faith and patience in waiting for Samuel to arrive, on the seventh day he panicked.

V9 AND HE (SAUL) OFFERED THE BURNT OFFERING

But he had no right to do this. He had no priestly office. This was a very serious mistake on Saul's part.

V10 BEHOLD, SAMUEL CAME

And so Saul's faithlessness and folly were revealed. His excuse for acting in this faithless way is given in verse 12.

V12 I FORCED MYSELF

But this was quite untrue. He did not consult with Yahweh. He did not pray. Lacking faith, he acted presumptuously and wrongly.

V13 THOU HAST DONE FOOLISHLY

Indeed he had! This is Samuel's straightforward assessment of Saul's actions.

V14 A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART

Man is from Heb. *ish* meaning a great man; a captain; a leader. These words are spoken of David at the time of his life when he had not yet come out of obscurity - at a time when he was a teenager. In 1 Sam 17:56 he is described as a "stripling". The Heb *elem* means a youth; a young man of the age of puberty. When we first meet David in the Bible in 1 Sam 16:11 he is probably aged between 16 and 18 years of age. These words constitute Yahweh's assessment of him even at this tender age. Additional words are added when these words are quoted in Acts 13:22 "which shall fulfil all my will".

1 SAMUEL 15

V24 AND SAUL SAID UNTO SAMUEL, I HAVE SINNED

He knew that he had done wrong. On the face of it this confession sounds impressive. But look at the reasons he advances for his sin.

BECAUSE I FEARED THE PEOPLE AND OBEYED THEIR VOICE

He feared the people more than he feared Yahweh. His heart was not with God but with the people. We must remember that it does not matter what the people want. All that matters is what Yahweh wants. We must learn to ALWAYS fear Yahweh and do what He wants despite the pressure that may come upon us from others.

1 SAMUEL 15 (continued)

V35 AND SAMUEL CAME NO MORE TO SEE SAUL

Their relationship was ended. Yahweh had broken with Saul (1 Sam 15:28) and because Yahweh had broken with Saul, Samuel does as well. So Saul no longer received Yahweh's commands, His counsel, His guidance, either through Samuel or anyone else. This is the tragic consequence when men turn away from the Truth - Yahweh turns away from them. We must ensure that this never happens in our own lives.

NEVERTHELESS SAMUEL MOURNED FOR SAUL

Samuel looked on Saul as a man who had made shipwreck of his faith. This was the cause of his grief and mourning.

1 SAMUEL 16

The Theme of the Chapter - **Yahweh chose David to be King because Yahweh looks on the heart (see V 7).**

V1 SAMUEL, HOW LONG WILT THOU MOURN FOR SAUL

Saul had proved to be a failure and Samuel mourned over that. In effect Yahweh says to Samuel, Why sit around and mourn for Saul seeing I have rejected him. There are better things to do Samuel.

SEEING I HAVE REJECTED HIM

This was the reason why Samuel should cease mourning. Although Samuel knew Yahweh's attitude to Saul as expressed in 1 Sam 13:14, 15:28, nevertheless he is so depressed and cast down by the failure of Saul that he apparently had forgotten what Yahweh had said.

GO, I WILL SEND THEE

Although there be failures in abundance and we feel despondent, we must recognise that human failure is a common occurrence, but Yahweh will never let that frustrate His purpose. The work of the Truth must go on despite the difficult circumstances of life. And first and foremost it must go on in our own lives. Despite adverse circumstances we must be labourers together with God (1 Cor 3:9). We can do nothing without God - without His blessing, help, and guidance. When things go wrong, we cannot remain mournfully inactive. We must press on in our labours in the Truth IN FAITH.

TO JESSE

Jesse means "to stand out" . In contrast with Saul he was a poor, humble man. Saul "stood out" in a fleshly way (1 Sam 9:2). Jesse "stood out" by virtue of his spiritual qualities. Centuries later Isaiah sets forth the Lord as "the stem out of Jesse" (Isa 11:1,10). Why not say the stem out of JUDAH for example? The answer is that Jesse was the epitome of a humble faithful lowly man. The Lord was to manifest that same spirit - he was the stem out of Jesse. David is often spoken of contemptuously as "the son of Jesse" (1 Sam 20:30-31, 22:7-9, etc) - the son of that man who stands out because of his spiritual qualities in being humble and poor and of a contrite spirit (Isa 66:2).

1 Samuel 16 (continued)

V1 cont THE BETHLEHEMITE

Bethlehem means "the house of bread". Jesse was one who stood out in the house of bread. A more complete title is given in 1 Sam 17:12 (see note there).

I HAVE PROVIDED ME A KING

Contrast this with 1 Samuel 8:5 where the people demand a king. Here the people are neither consulted nor informed. I have provided ME a king. Yahweh knows that "it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer 10:23)

AMONG HIS SONS

Samuel is not given all the counsel of God at this point. He is not told which son. He has to proceed in faith like Abraham who went out not knowing whither he went (Heb 11:8). So Samuel has to go in faith not knowing who he was to anoint.

V2 HOW CAN I GO?

Saul was a very very unhappy man at this time and was very belligerent in his attitude to Yahweh's servants. Consequently Samuel expresses his fear of what Saul would do to him if he found out about this mission for Yahweh. And so Yahweh tells him what to do.

TAKE AN HEIFER

The Heb. for 'heifer' is *eglah*. This is the only time this word is used of a sacrifice. Normally the masculine gender is used for sin offerings but *eglah* is feminine. Lev 3:1 informs us that feminine animals could be used as PEACE offerings. In the sacrificial code peace offerings were the last to be made and symbolised peace between Yahweh and the offerer. This prefigured the time when the bridegroom (the male) and the bride (the female) will come together in peace with God. Here Yahweh was going to make a covenant of peace with the House of Jesse.

AND SAY I AM COME TO SACRIFICE TO YAHWEH

There is a difference between doing something in secret because it is not wise for others to know AND being deceptive. Yahweh is NEVER deceptive.

V4 AND SAMUEL DID THAT WHICH YAHWEH SPAKE

His doubts are now gone. Being assured by Yahweh he goes forth in faith as Abraham did when he came out of the land of the Chaldees. Samuel's obedience brought a threefold blessing. 1. Any danger from Saul was averted. 2. Yahweh's guidance and blessing was obtained. 3. Out of this simple action a new day was to dawn for Israel.

AND THE ELDERS OF THE TOWN TREMBLED AT HIS COMING

They trembled for the same reason that Samuel had been afraid V2. They too were afraid of Saul. It was indicative of the atmosphere of doubt, uncertainty and fear that prevailed throughout Israel at this time.

COMEST THOU PEACEABLY?

Jer. Bible "have you come with good intentions towards us?" Peaceably is from the hebrew *shalom*.

SANCTIFY YOURSELVES AND COME WITH ME TO THE SACRIFICE

We must not just rush off and say I will do this or that for Yahweh. What we do needs careful, prayerful thought. We must prepare our minds for worship - we must sanctify ourselves.

1 Samuel 16 (continued)

V6 SURELY YAHWEH'S ANOINTED IS BEFORE HIM

Samuel was making the error of looking on the outward appearance. Normally it would have been the firstborn of the family who took the position of pre-eminence. In every respect Eliab looked the part of Israel's next king. We must learn to see things as Yahweh does.

1 SAMUEL 17

V12 DAVID

His name means "beloved". The Lord Jesus Christ was the antitype of David - see Mark 1:11 "Thou art my son the beloved" (as it can be rendered).

(JESSE) THAT EPHRATHITE, OF BETHLEHEM-JUDAH

Jesse means to stand out. Ephratite means fruitful. Bethlehem means the house of bread. Judah means praise. In a sentence - Jesse was the one who stands out; who is fruitful in the House of Bread, to praise Yahweh. Here we have an indication of character of one who was to be a forebear of the Lord Jesus Christ.

HE HAD EIGHT SONS

In 1 Chron 2:13-15 only seven sons are listed. It appears that between the writing of Samuel and the later Chronicles record one son had died. David was the eighth son. Eight is the number for the cutting off of the flesh. (Circumcision took place on the eighth day etc). It is also the number for the Lord Jesus Christ. In Scripture from the beginning of Matthew until the end of the Epistles (Jude) the name Jesus Christ occurs 888 times.

AN OLD MAN

Roth. "Old advanced in years". Jer. Bible "Old and well on in years". Jesse was old but had a comparatively young family.